



(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) Publication number:

0 453 797 A2

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 91104799.1

(51) Int. Cl.⁵: G01N 21/86, G01N 33/84

(22) Date of filing: 26.03.91

(30) Priority: 26.04.90 JP 111539/90
18.01.91 JP 4544/91

(43) Date of publication of application:
30.10.91 Bulletin 91/44

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE GB

(71) Applicant: Yokogawa Electric Corporation
9-32, Nakacho 2-chome Musashino-shi
Tokyo 180(JP)

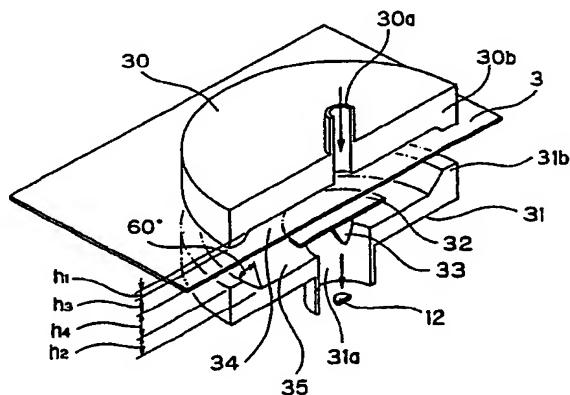
(72) Inventor: Chiba, Ryuji
3-26-10, Sakigaoka
Funabashi-shi, Chiba 274(JP)
Inventor: Hara, Hitoshi
2-3-32-305, Mukodaicho
Tanashi-shi, Tokyo 188(JP)
Inventor: Yamada, Tomoyuki
4-49-3, Nagasaki
Toshima-ku, Tokyo 171(JP)
Inventor: Itozaki, Kenji
2-13-12, Iguchi
Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181(JP)

(74) Representative: Henkel, Feiler, Hänel &
Partner
Möhlstrasse 37
W-8000 München 80(DE)

(54) Infrared ray moisture meter.

(57) The present disclosure relates to an infrared ray moisture meter which measures moisture of paper using absorption of infrared rays, and more particularly to an infrared ray moisture meter in which penetration and scattering by paper is done enough independent of whether the paper is thin or thick, the sensitivity of which is high, and in which attenuation of rays is small and error of measurement with respect to misalignment in the XY direction is small, and at the same time, which lowers the influence of the quality of the paper by applying to the paper infrared rays which are sensitive to moisture, infrared rays which are sensitive to cellulose, and infrared rays which are sensitive neither to moisture nor cellulose and by computing using detection output by the infrared rays.

Fig.5



EP 0 453 797 A2

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an apparatus which measures moisture of paper in a paper machine, etc.

Description of the Prior Art

Figs. 1 through 3 show conventional moisture meters which measure moisture of paper in a paper machine, etc.

In Fig. 1, a light emitting portion 1 and a light detecting portion 2 are disposed so as to face each other with paper 3, which is an object to be measured, sandwiched between them.

At the light emitting portion 1, rays from a light source 6 are made to be parallel rays by a lens 7, are further made to be intermittent rays by a chopper wheel 8, and are applied to the paper 3 through an irradiation window 4. The chopper wheel 8 is provided with a filter 9 which transmits rays the wavelength of which rays is $1.94\mu\text{m}$ and which rays are absorbed by moisture (M rays) and a filter 10 which transmits rays the wavelength of which rays is $1.8\mu\text{m}$ and which rays are not absorbed by moisture (R rays). According to rotation of the chopper wheel 8, the chopper wheel 8 applies to the paper 3 the M rays and the R rays by turns. At the light detection portion 2, the rays which penetrate the paper 3 are introduced from an incidence window 5, focused by a lens 11, and focused on a light detector 12. At the light detector 12, the M rays and the R rays are detected in time sequence and given to a computing unit 13. Then, computing of V_R/V_M is conducted and the result is outputted.

In a conventional moisture meter which is shown in Fig. 2, at the light emitting portion 1, rays from the light source 6 are made to be parallel rays by the lens 7, are made to be intermittent rays by a chopper wheel 8', and are applied to the paper 3 through the irradiation window 4. Filters such as mounted on the conventional moisture meter which is shown in Fig. 1 are not mounted on the chopper wheel 8' and the chopper wheel 8' is used solely for the purpose of getting rid of the influence of stray light. White light which is applied from the irradiation window 4 is under multiple reflection at irregular reflection surfaces 16 and 17 which are provided on the surface of the light emitting portion 1 and on the surface of the light detecting portion 2, respectively, which face each other with the paper 3 sandwiched between them. Then, the white light is introduced in the light detecting portion 2 from the incidence window 5 which incidence window 5 is provided so as to be misaligned with

respect to the irradiation window 4.

At the light detecting portion 2, the introduced light is divided in two by a beam splitter 18. One group of the divided light is introduced to the light detector 12 through the filter 9 which transmits the M rays and through the lens 11. The other group of the divided light is introduced to a light detector 12' through the filter 10 which transmits the R rays and through a lens 11'. The M rays which are detected by the light detector 12 and the R rays which are detected by the light detector 12' are given to the computing unit 13 at the same time. Then, computing of V_R/V_M is conducted and the result is outputted.

Fig. 3 shows still another conventional moisture meter. Spherical mirrors 20 and 21 are disposed with the openings covered by dustproof glass 22 and 23 and with the paper 3 sandwiched between them. In this moisture meter, rays which are applied by the light source 6 and which are made to be intermittent rays by the chopper wheel 8 having the two kinds of filters that are referred to above are applied to the paper 3 through an irradiation window 5. Then, the rays which penetrate the paper 3 or which are scattered by the paper 3 reach the light detector 12 after penetrating the paper 3 a plurality of times by being reflected at the inner surface of the sphere and by being applied to the paper 3 again. The computing of V_R/V_M is conducted in the same way as in the examples which are shown in Figs. 1 and 2 by a computing unit (not shown) using the detected rays and an electric signal which is related to the moisture of the paper 3 is outputted.

In the conventional infrared ray moisture meters which are referred to above, M rays and R rays are applied to paper, and the ratio of the output V_R of the R rays which penetrate the paper to the output V_M of the M rays which penetrate the paper, that is, V_R/V_M is computed and an electric signal which is related to the moisture weight of the paper is obtained.

In an on-line measurement, as the relationship between the moisture weight and the output of the moisture meter subtly changes depending on the kind of the pulp which is the raw material of the paper and the basis weight of the paper, calibration curves are made using samples which are prepared in advance, the calibration curves are inputted to the computer, a calibration curve the characteristics of which are the nearest to the kind and the basis weight of the paper to be manufactured is selected, and the moisture weight of the paper is obtained using the calibration curve.

However, the number of calibration curves which can be inputted to the computer is limited (for example, eight) and all objects to be measured can not be covered. In a conventional moisture

meter, even with respect to paper made from pulp of the same kind, if the basis weight is different, the gap between the calibration curves is big.

Fig. 4 shows calibration curves which are obtained using three kinds of samples in the conventional moisture meter which is shown in Fig. 2. In Fig. 4, the vertical line designates the output of the moisture meter which is given by $K^*(V_R/V_M)$ (K : constant). The horizontal line designates the moisture weight [g/m^2] of the paper. C_1 is a calibration curve when the basis weight of the paper is small, C_2 is a calibration curve when the basis weight of the paper is medium, and C_3 is a calibration curve when the basis weight of the paper is large.

For example, when the moisture weight is 25 [g/m^2], the output of the moisture meter according to the calibration curve C_1 is the smallest and the output of the moisture meter according to the calibration curve C_3 is the largest. The reason that the output according to the calibration curve C_3 is larger even the moisture weight is the same is supposed to be that, when the basis weight is large, the number of times of the reflection and scattering within the paper increases, the optical path length becomes substantially longer, the M rays are absorbed by moisture more, and the value of the output V_M becomes smaller. When the moisture weight is 25 [g/m^2], if the output of the moisture meter according to the calibration curve C_1 is regarded as the standard, there is a gap D_1 between the calibration curve C_1 and the calibration curve C_3 which gap D_1 is 12.5 [g/m^2] if converted into moisture weight. If the gap is large, a gap d_1 between an object to be measured which is shown by a broken line and the calibration curve C_2 which is selected as the calibration curve the characteristics of which are the nearest to that of the object is large, which causes error of measurement. Further, the output according to the conventional system is shown as moisture weight but generally, as a value according to which the quality of paper is to be controlled, moisture percentage is more convenient. Therefore, in addition to moisture weight, the basis weight of the paper is obtained to calculate moisture percentage.

Among the conventional infrared ray moisture meters which are referred to above, the one which is shown in Fig. 1 has advantages that the arrangement is simple and the attenuation of the quantity of rays is small, but on the other hand, as the object to be measured is only one point of the paper, there is a problem that, if the paper is thin, the moisture meter can not be sensitive. In the moisture meter which is shown in Fig. 2, as the optical axis of the light emitting portion and the optical axis of the light detecting portion are misaligned, the number of times of meeting of the rays with the paper is large. However, the range of the

rays which are scattered at the paper is 180° at the widest, and rays which meets with the paper only once are included. Therefore, the sensitivity of the moisture meter is not satisfactory. Further, there is a problem that if the optical axis of the light emitting portion is shifted more from the optical axis of the light detecting portion in order to decrease the influence of rays which penetrate the paper only once, the quantity of rays is decreased (The conventional moisture meter is designed so that the optical axes of the light emitting portion and of the light detecting portion may be shifted from each other by about 60mm, and the distance between the upper reflector and the lower reflector may be about 6-8mm).

As for the moisture meter which is shown in Fig. 3, as rays which do not penetrate and are not scattered by the paper so many times (low-sensitive rays which do not meet with water molecules enough) are included in the rays to be detected, there is a problem that the sensitivity of moisture detection is low. Further, in this method, the sensitivity is different depending on whether the paper is thin or thick, and accordingly, there is a problem that the influence of the quality of paper is great.

Further, in the conventional moisture meters which are referred to above, if the axis of the head which contains the light emitting portion and the axis of the head which contains the light detecting portion are misaligned within a horizontal plane, a great error is caused, and accordingly, there is a problem that mechanical or electrical correcting means for correcting the error is necessary.

The present invention is made to solve the problems of conventional moisture meters which are referred to above, and the object of the present invention is to provide an infrared ray moisture meter in which transmission and scattering by paper is done enough independent of whether the paper is thin or thick, the sensitivity of which is high, and in which attenuation of rays is small and error of measurement with respect to misalignment in a horizontal plane is small, and to provide an infrared ray moisture meter in which the influence of the quality of paper is lowered, the shift of calibration curves is small, and moisture percentage is directly outputted.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, the object of the present invention is to provide an infrared ray moisture meter for measuring moisture contained in paper which lowers the influence of the quality of the paper and which comprises a light detector which detects rays which come through the paper and which generates a signal for measuring moisture, an upper reflector and a lower reflector which have re-

turning portions at their periphery and which are disposed so as to sandwich the paper, a shielding plate both sides of which are mirror finished and which is disposed between the paper and the lower reflector, applying means for applying to the paper infrared rays of a first wavelength range which are absorbed by moisture, infrared rays of a second wavelength range which are absorbed by cellulose, and infrared rays of a third wavelength range which are absorbed neither by moisture nor by cellulose, detecting means for detecting the infrared rays of the first wavelength range, the infrared rays of the second wavelength range, and the infrared rays of the third wavelength range from the rays which penetrate and are scattered by the paper and for generating output which corresponds to the intensity of the respective range of the infrared rays, and calculating means for calculating according to the output of the detecting means.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Figs. 1 through 3 are views which show conventional moisture meters;

Fig. 4 is a graph of characteristics of calibration curves which are obtained by the conventional moisture meter that is shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is a sectional perspective view which shows an infrared ray moisture meter as an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 6 is a graph which shows the relationship between a signal of measurement (V_R/V_M), MW, and calibration curves in a conventional moisture meter;

Fig. 7 is a graph which shows the relationship between a signal of measurement (V_R/V_M), MW, and calibration curves in a moisture meter of the present invention;

Fig. 8 is a theoretical block diagram of an infrared ray moisture meter of the present invention which uses rays of three different wavelength range;

Fig. 9 is a graph of characteristics of calibration curves which are obtained by an infrared ray moisture meter of the present invention;

Fig. 10 is a comparative table of calibration curves which are obtained by an infrared ray moisture meter of the present invention which uses rays of three different wavelength range and calibration curves which are obtained by a conventional moisture meter;

Fig. 11 is a sectional view which shows an embodiment of the present invention wherein the outer diameter of an upper reflector is formed so as to be smaller than the outer diameter of a lower reflector;

Fig. 12 is a graph which shows the relationship of the amount of misalignment and error of

moisture percentage when the outer diameter of the upper reflector is formed so as to be of the same size as the outer diameter of the lower reflector;

5 Fig. 13 is a graph which shows the relationship of the amount of misalignment and error of moisture percentage when the outer diameter of the upper reflector is formed so as to be smaller than the outer diameter of the lower reflector; and

10 Fig. 14 is a sectional perspective view which shows an embodiment of the present invention wherein the measurement width is made to be narrow.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

15 Fig. 5 is a partial sectional perspective view which shows an embodiment of an infrared ray moisture meter of the present invention.

20 In Fig. 5, the side which faces paper 3 of an upper reflector 30 is mirror finished. A light emitting hole 30a is formed at the center of the upper reflector 30. A return ring 30b is formed at the peripheral portion of the upper reflector 30. The return ring 30b is convex and the section of its inner circumference face meets at about 60° to the perpendicular of the mirror finished face.

25 The side which faces the paper 3 of a lower reflector 31 is also mirror finished. A light detecting hole 31a is formed at the center of the lower reflector 31. A return ring 31b is formed at the peripheral portion of the lower reflector 31. The return ring 31b is convex and the section of its inner circumference face meets at about 60° to the perpendicular of the mirror finished face.

30 Both of the sides of a shielding plate 32 are mirror finished. A conical protrusion (a conical mirror) 33 the surface of which is mirror finished is provided at the center of one of the sides of the shielding plate 32. The shielding plate 32 is fixed by a plurality of supporting poles (not shown) in the space between the lower reflector 31 and the paper 3 so as to be as high as the upper portion of the return ring 31b of the lower reflector 31. The conical mirror 33 is disposed on the side of the light detecting hole 31a. The center of the shielding plate 32 is preferably aligned with the axis of the upper reflector 30 and the axis of the lower reflector 31.

35 The upper and lower reflectors 30 and 31 sandwich the paper 3 the moisture contained in which is to be measured. The upper and lower reflectors 30 and 31 are disposed so as to be as adjacent as possible to each other taking necessary allowable range into consideration and form light emitting space 34 and light detecting space

35. Although not shown in Fig. 5, a light source is disposed over the light emitting hole 30a which light source applies M rays the wavelength of which is $1.94\mu\text{m}$ and which is absorbed by moisture and R rays the wavelength of which is $1.8\mu\text{m}$ and which is not absorbed by moisture, and elements such as a calculating portion which conducts calculation of moisture based on output of a light detector 12 which are necessary for a moisture meter are provided at the subsequent stage of the light detector 12.

In the above arrangement, among rays which are applied from the light emitting portion to the surface of the paper 3, rays which are scattered at the surface of the paper 3 are reflected at the upper reflector 30, and rays which penetrate the paper 3 are reflected at the shielding plate 32 and are returned to the paper. In this way, rays which penetrates or are scattered at the paper 3 and which are conveyed around are mainly reflected at the reflecting surface of the upper reflector 30, are returned to the center portion, and repeat penetration or scattering at the paper 3. A part of the rays are reflected between the shielding plate 32 and the lower reflector 31 and reach the conical mirror 33 under the shielding plate 32. The conical mirror 33 has a function of leading the rays effectively to the light detector 12.

The applicant of the present invention has conducted an experiment under the condition that the outer diameter of the upper and the lower reflectors is 60mm, the height h_1 of the upper return ring 30b is 2.5mm, the height h_2 of the lower return ring 31b is 5.0mm, the distance h_3 from the upper return ring 30b to the paper and the distance h_4 from the lower return ring 31b to the paper are 2.0mm, the diameter of the shielding plate 32 is 30mm, the distance from the surface of the shielding plate to the paper is 2.0mm, the diameter of the light emitting hole 30a is 3mm, the diameter of the light detecting hole 31a is 18mm, and all other conditions are the same as that of a conventional moisture meter.

Figs. 6 and 7 show calibration curves of the conventional moisture meter which is shown in Fig. 2 and the moisture meter of the present invention which is referred to above when, with respect to six kinds of paper, MW (moisture weight per unit area) is found based on a signal of measurement (V_R/V_M) and the moisture percentage of the paper ($MW/BW \times 100\% \dots BW$; paper weight per unit area) is calculated based on the above value so that measurement may be conducted within an accuracy of $\pm 0.1\%$ (an accuracy of $\pm 0.1\%$ shall mean, for example, when the moisture percentage is 5%, the error of measurement is within the range of 4.9% - 5.1%). With the conventional moisture meter, as shown in Fig. 6, five calibration curves are

necessary to obtain an accuracy of $\pm 0.1\%$. On the other hand, with the moisture meter of the present invention, as shown in Fig. 3, only three calibration curves are necessary.

According to the above arrangement, rays which come from the light emitting hole first penetrate or are scattered by the paper. These rays are reflected between the shielding plate and the upper reflector and meet with the paper a plurality of times. After the rays reach the periphery of the shielding plate, a part of the rays repeat diffraction between the lower reflector and the rear surface of the shielding plate and then reach the light detector. On the other hand, rays which repeats meeting with the paper further toward the periphery of the reflectors are returned by the return rings and again reach the periphery of the shielding plate, and a part of the rays are diffracted toward the rear surface of the shielding plate, repeat penetration and scattering, and reach the light detector. As a result, rays which are low in sensitivity of moisture detection, for example, rays which penetrate the paper only once, do not reach the light detector, which follows an improvement of sensitivity.

Further, as the moisture meter is arranged to return rays to the side of the light detector (in the direction of the center) by the return rings, the confining effect is made to be high, the quantity of rays of detection is made to be large, and the same optical system can measure moisture of both paper of low basis weight (for example, about $30\text{g}/\text{m}^2$) and paper of high basis weight (for example, about $150\text{g}/\text{m}^2$).

Still further, as rays which meet with enough water molecules and which penetrate and are scattered by paper enough are detected independent of whether the paper is thin or thick, the influence of the quality of the paper is lowered.

Also, as the rays are returned by the return rings, only a small area of paper to be measured is necessary in order to obtain rays of the same optical path length as that of a conventional meter.

Fig. 8 is a theoretical block diagram of an infrared ray moisture meter with which the influence of the quality of paper is lowered, the shift of the calibration curves is made to be small, and moisture percentage can directly be outputted.

In Fig. 8, a numeral 6 designates a lamp and a numeral 7 designates a condenser lens. Filters 41, 42, and 43 each of which selectively transmits infrared rays of a predetermined wavelength range are disposed on a filter wheel 8 so as to be disposed on a concentric circle of the filter wheel 8. Four cut-outs 8a, 8b, 8c, and 8d for generating a synchronisation signal are provided at the periphery of the filter wheel 8. A photo interruptor 44 in which an LED and a phototransistor are disposed so as to face each other and so as to sandwich the

peripheral portion of the filter wheel 8 generates a synchronisation pulse every time the cut-out 8a, 8b, 8c, or 8d passes the photo interrupter 44. A synchronisation signal circuit 45 generates a synchronisation signal based on a synchronisation pulse from the photo interruptor 44.

A numeral 3 designates paper to be measured, a numeral 12 designates a light detector, and a numeral 46 designates an amplifier. Sample-and-hold circuits 47, 48, and 49 convert an alternative current signal which is given by the light detector 12 to a direct current signal according to a synchronisation signal from the synchronisation signal circuit 45. An arithmetic circuit 13 calculates signals which are given by the sample-and-hold circuits 47, 48, and 49 and generates moisture meter output V_o .

Next, the operation of the moisture meter as an embodiment of the present invention is described. According to the rotation of the filter wheel 8, infrared rays the wavelength of which is $1.94\mu\text{m}$ and which pass the filter 41, infrared rays the wavelength of which is $2.1\mu\text{m}$ and which pass the filter 42, and infrared rays the wavelength of which is $1.8\mu\text{m}$ and which pass the filter 43 are applied by turns to the paper 3. Penetrating rays and scattered rays based on these three kinds of infrared rays are detected by the light detector 12. Then, detection output V_M with respect to the infrared rays the wavelength of which is $1.94\mu\text{m}$, detection output V_C with respect to the infrared rays the wavelength of which is $2.1\mu\text{m}$, and detection output V_R with respect to the infrared rays the wavelength of which is $1.8\mu\text{m}$ are given in a form of an alternative current signal to the sample-and-hold circuits 47, 48, and 49. By a synchronisation signal which is given to the circuits 47, 48, and 49 by the synchronisation signal circuit 45, the alternative current signal is converted to a direct current signal. Then, the output V_M , V_C , and V_R is outputted from the sample-and-hold circuits 47, 48, and 49, respectively.

At the arithmetic circuit 13, optimum constants a and b are set and the following calculation is conducted:

$$V_o = \{\ln(a \cdot V_M / V_R)\} / \{\ln(b \cdot V_C / V_R)\} \quad (1)$$

As a result, V_o becomes a function of only the moisture weight (MW) and the cellulose weight (CW) (MW/CW), and one calibration curve is made independent of whether the basis weight is large or small and what kind of pulp the paper is made of.

In the equation (1), error of the moisture meter caused by change of optical path length according to the enlargement of the basis weight is lowered by dividing V_M by V_C which have the same kind of

optical path length. The reason for dividing V_M and V_C by V_R is to remove the influence of loss by scattering. Further, as the absorption signal of moisture is divided by the absorption signal of cellulose, a signal which is related to moisture percentage (moisture weight / cellulose weight) is outputted, and by conducting ash content correction, moisture percentage alone can be outputted.

Fig. 9 shows calibration curves of seven specimens of newsprint using a system of the present invention (as some of the calibration curves lie on another, five calibration curves are shown). The vertical line shows V_o as referred to above, and the horizontal line shows MW/CW [%].

The moisture percentage is expressed as follows:

$$1 / \{1 + (CW/MW) \cdot \{1/(1-A)\} \cdot 100\} \% \quad (2)$$

A ; ash percentage = ash weight / bone dry weight

Accordingly, if (MW/CW) is found, moisture percentage can be outputted alone.

In this case, ash content correction has to be conducted with respect to every paper. However, the influence of change of the ash percentage A of the equation (2) on the moisture percentage is small, and ash percentage which is found in advance using samples can be used.

Fig. 10 shows comparison between calibration curves of a moisture meter as an embodiment of the present invention which uses rays of three different wavelength range and calibration curves of a conventional moisture meter of two-filter method. As is clear from Fig. 10, with respect to five specimens of sample, the standard deviation of error of moisture percentage is lowered from 1.00 to 0.62 [%]. Also, with respect to seven specimens of newsprint, the standard deviation of error of moisture percentage is lowered from 0.37 to 0.11 [%]. As for the maximum error of moisture percentage, with respect to the five specimens of sample, it is lowered from +3.65, -1.13 to +1.82, -1.12 [%]. With respect to the seven specimens of newsprint, the maximum error of moisture percentage is lowered from +1.35, -0.47 to +0.20, -0.35 [%].

Here, the standard deviation means standard deviation of one calibration curve which is obtained from calibration curves of each sample so that the error of moisture percentage may be the minimum (a moisture percentage error minimum calibration curve) and calibration curves of the sample (the range of moisture percentage is from 2% to 12%). The maximum error is the maximum value of plus and minus of error of moisture percentage between the moisture percentage error minimum calibration curve and the calibration curves of the sample within the range of 2% and 12%.

In the moisture meter of the present invention,

the infrared rays the wavelength of which is $1.94\mu\text{m}$, the infrared rays the wavelength of which is $2.1\mu\text{m}$, and the infrared rays the wavelength of which is $1.8\mu\text{m}$ are separated by the filter whe 18 and then applied to the paper 3. However, white light may be applied to the paper 3 and infrared rays of each wavelength may be separated from the light after penetrating or being scattered by the paper 3.

Further, in the moisture meter of the present embodiment, \ln is used as the function f , but a function such as I_{bg} or $X-\{(x-1)^2/2\}-1$ of polynomial expansion may be used as long as the function outputs an approximate value of logarithm.

According to the present invention, an infrared ray moisture meter with which moisture of paper is measured with the influence of the quality of the paper lowered, with shift of the calibration curve small, and which can directly output moisture percentage can be materialized.

Next, a moisture meter of the present invention in which error when misalignment is caused between the upper reflector 30 disposed on the light emitting side and the lower reflector 31 disposed on the light detecting side of Fig. 5 is prevented is described.

Generally, in an on-line measurement of moisture of paper, a light emitting portion and a light detecting portion are disposed on two arms, respectively, which arms are parallel to each other, paper moves between the arms, and further, in order to measure the whole area of the width of the paper, the light emitting portion and the light detecting portion move orthogonally with respect to the machine direction along the arms. Accordingly, the position of the upper reflector 30 disposed on the light emitting side and the position of the lower reflector 31 disposed on the light detecting side (see Fig. 1) are not always aligned with each other and misalignment, for example, in a horizontal direction or the vertical direction is caused. As this misalignment is followed by error of measurement, conventionally, various kinds of electrical or mechanical correcting means are proposed. With the moisture meter of the present invention which is shown in Fig. 5, the same kind of error which is caused by the misalignment also can not be prevented from happening.

When the upper and lower reflectors 30 and 31 are horizontally misaligned, the confining effect of the rays is lowered and the conditions of reflection with the shielding plate 32 are changed, and thus the quantity of rays of detection is decreased and the sensitivity is lowered.

Fig. 11 is a partial sectional view of an embodiment with which error caused by misalignment of the light emitting portion and the light detecting portion is prevented from happening. In this em-

bodiment, an improvement in the horizontal misalignment as referred to above is made. The outer diameter of the upper reflector 30 is made to be smaller than the outer diameter of the lower reflector 31. The lower reflector 31 is necessary for increasing the quantity of rays of detection. On the other hand, as detection of moisture is conducted on the area where the upper and lower surfaces are overlapped, the range of measuring moisture is the area where the upper reflector 30 exists.

According to the arrangement as referred to above, as far as the upper reflector 30 horizontally moves within the area over the lower reflector 31, the sensitivity of moisture detection and the quantity of rays are maintained at a predetermined level.

Figs. 12 and 13 show an example of an experiment using six kinds of paper of the relationship of the misalignment and error of moisture percentage in case the outer diameter of the upper reflector 30 is formed to be the same size as the outer diameter of the lower reflector 31 (Fig. 12) and in case the outer diameter of the upper reflector 30 is formed to be smaller than the outer diameter of the lower reflector 31 (Fig. 13) of the moisture meter using the rays of three different wavelength range of the present invention which is shown in Fig. 8. The results are the errors of moisture percentage from a standard moisture percentage when there is no alignment (the upper reflector 30 is coaxial with the lower reflector 31) of moisture percentage (MW/BWX100%) found by signals which are obtained by moving the upper head by every 1mm from the center with the lower head fixed.

As is clear from Figs. 12 and 13, by changing the diameter of the upper reflector 30 from the diameter of the lower reflector 31, the movement characteristics can be greatly improved (generally, the quantity of misalignment between the upper and the lower heads is about $\pm 1.5\text{mm}$, but in Fig. 12, with respect to tracing paper-1 and tracing paper-2, the error as to the misalignment of 2mm is over 0.2%. On the other hand, in Fig. 13, when the misalignment is 2mm, the error is within 0.2% with respect to every kind of paper, and the error of moisture percentage is improved).

In the experiment, a moisture meter in which the outer diameters D_1 and D_2 of the upper and the lower reflectors 30 and 31 are both 40mm and a moisture meter in which the outer diameter D_1 of the upper reflector 30 is 40mm and the outer diameter D_2 of the lower reflector 31 is 50mm are used. The diameter d_1 of the light emitting hole, the diameter d_2 of the light detecting hole, and the diameter d_3 of the shielding plate are commonly 3mm, 18mm, and 22mm, respectively. The height h_1 of the return ring 30a is 2.5mm, the height h_2 of the return ring 30b is 5.0mm, and the distances h_3

and h_4 from the return rings 30a and 30b to the paper are both 2.0mm.

Fig. 14 is a sectional perspective view which shows an embodiment of the present invention in which the measurement width is made to be smaller without lowering the sensitivity of detection. Like reference characters in Figs. 5 and 14 designate like elements and duplicated description is omitted. In the moisture meter of the present embodiment, the upper and the lower reflectors 30 and 31 are formed to be rectangular. The longer side of the upper reflector 30 is 140mm, the shorter side of the upper reflector 30 is 40mm, the longer side of the lower reflector 31 is 150mm, and the shorter side of the lower reflector 31 is 50mm. The height h_1 and h_2 of the return rings 30b and 31b is 9.6mm from the reflection face. The diameter of the light emitting hole 30a is 3mm and the diameter of the light detecting hole 31a is 18mm. In the moisture meter of the present embodiment, the shielding plate 32 is square-like one side of which square is about 40mm, both of which sides in the longitudinal direction of the lower reflector 31 are bent so as to be broadened toward the ends, the bent portions being in contact with the lower reflector and being fixed around the center of the lower reflector so that opened portions are located in the machine direction. This device is fixed to a mounting head with its longitudinal direction being along the machine direction.

According to the arrangement as referred to above, the penetrating and scattered rays do not come from the cross direction and only rays which penetrate and are scattered along the openings in the machine direction are detected. Generally, in an on-line measurement of moisture of paper, the measurement width in the cross direction is more important than the measurement width in the machine direction. This arrangement is short in the cross direction and long in the machine direction, and therefore, the measurement width can be shortened without lowering the sensitivity of detection. In the embodiment, the upper and lower reflectors are rectangular, but they may be formed to be ellipse-like the longer sides of which are straight and the shorter sides of which are semicircular.

Claims

1. A measurement equipment of characteristics of paper having a light detector which detects light through the paper for measuring physical characteristics of the paper according to a signal from the light detector comprising:
an upper reflector which has a returning portion at the periphery;
a lower reflector which has a returning portion at the periphery and which is disposed

on the opposite side to the upper reflector with respect to the paper; and

5 a shielding plate both sides of which are mirror finished and which is disposed between the paper and the lower reflector.

2. An infrared ray moisture meter for measuring moisture contained in paper using absorption of infrared rays comprising:

10 means for applying to the paper infrared rays of a first wavelength range which are absorbed by moisture, infrared rays of a second wavelength range which are absorbed by cellulose, and infrared rays of a third wavelength range which are absorbed neither by moisture nor cellulose;

15 a detecting means which detects the infrared rays of the first wavelength range, the infrared rays of the second wavelength range, and the infrared rays of the third wavelength range from rays that penetrate or are scattered by the paper and which generates output V_M , V_C , and V_R which correspond to the strength of the infrared rays of the three wavelength ranges, respectively; and

20 a calculating means to which the output V_M , V_C , and V_R are given, which calculates $V_o = \{f(a \cdot V_M \cdot V_R)\} / \{f(b \cdot V_C \cdot V_R)\}$ (a , b : constant, f : function) and which outputs the value of V_o as output of the moisture meter, whereby the influence of the quality of the paper is lowered.

3. The infrared ray moisture meter of claim 2 characterized in that the upper and the lower reflectors are formed to be disc-like and the outer diameter of the upper reflector is made to differ from each other.

4. The infrared ray moisture meter of claim 2 characterized in that the upper and the lower reflectors are formed to be rectangular or ellipse-like, at least the longer sides of the upper or the lower reflector are formed to be shorter than the longer sides of the other reflector, the longer sides of the upper and the lower reflectors are disposed in the moving direction of the paper, and the shorter sides of the upper and the lower reflectors are disposed in the direction which is orthogonal with respect to the moving direction of the paper.

Fig.1

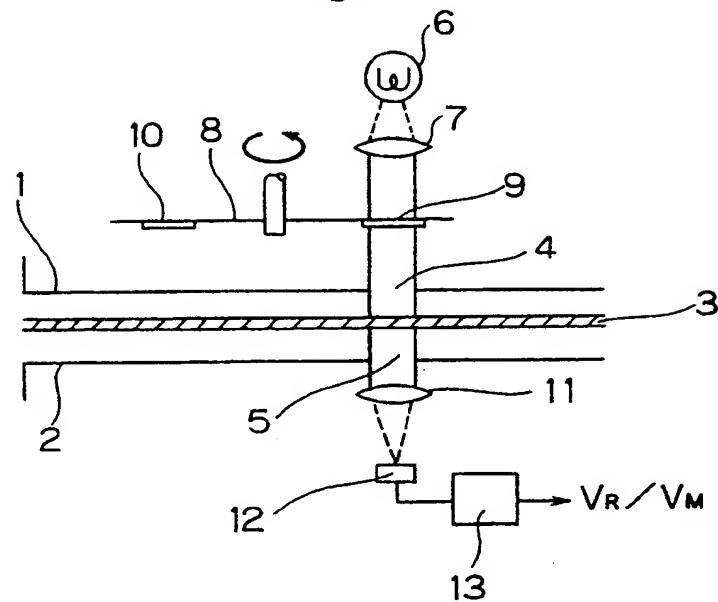


Fig.2

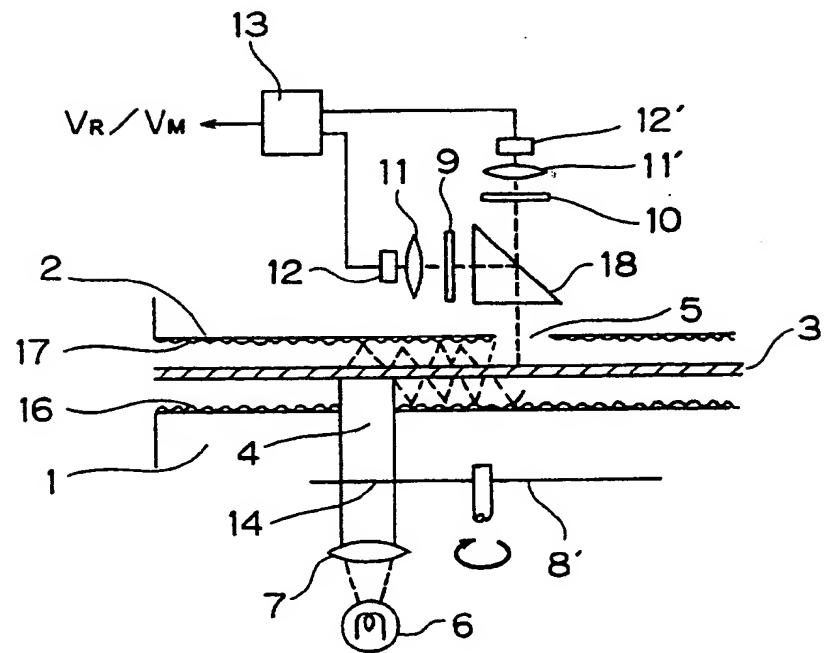


Fig.3

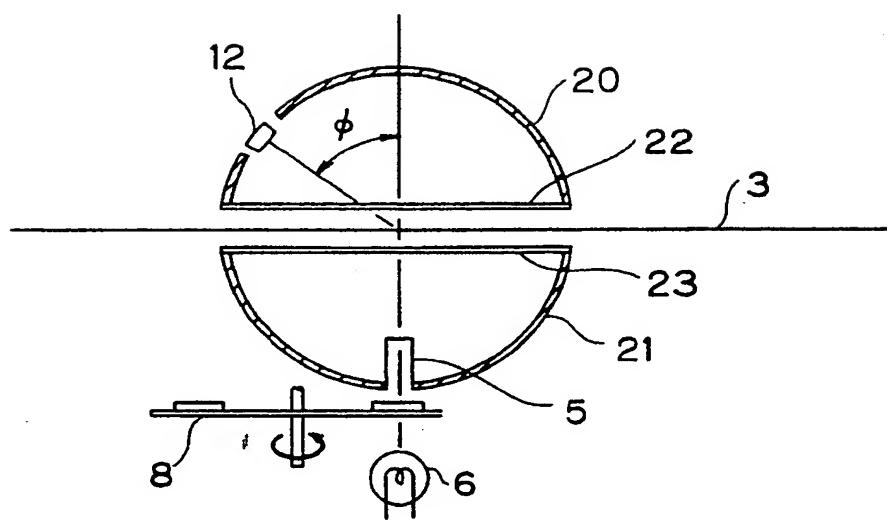


Fig.4

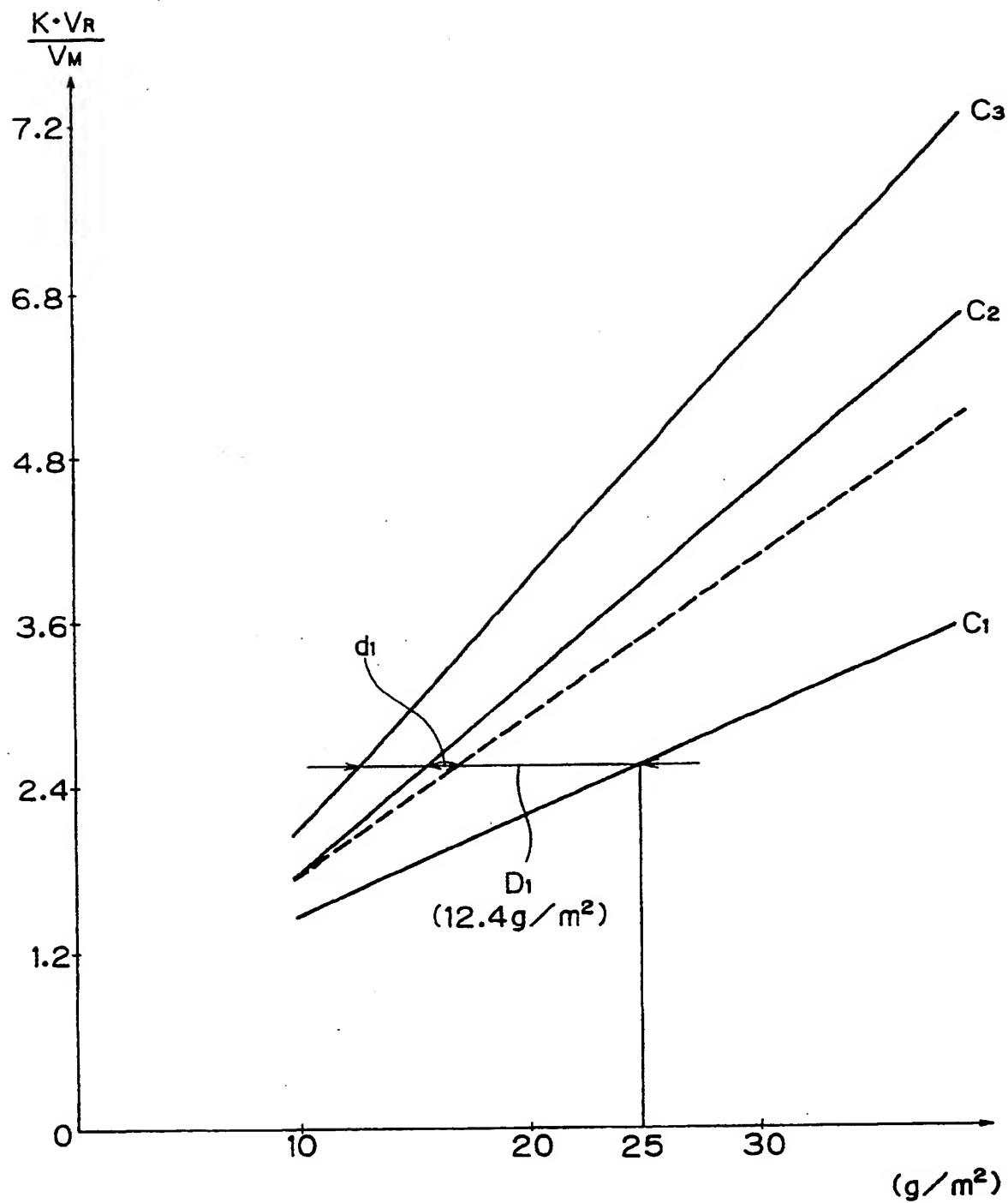
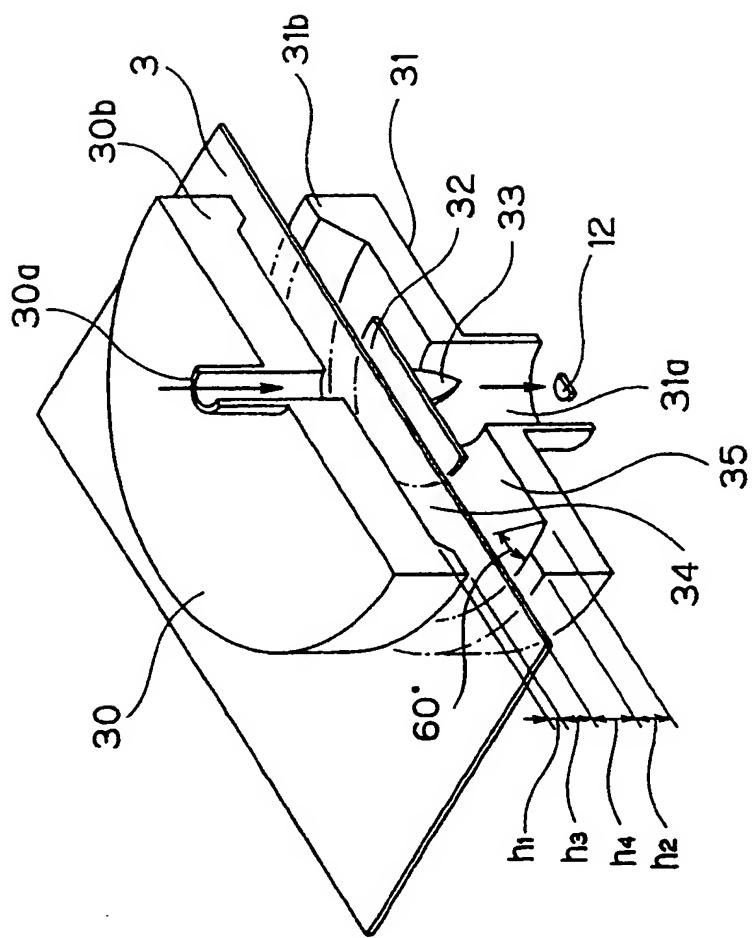


Fig.5



EP 0 453 797 A2

Fig.6

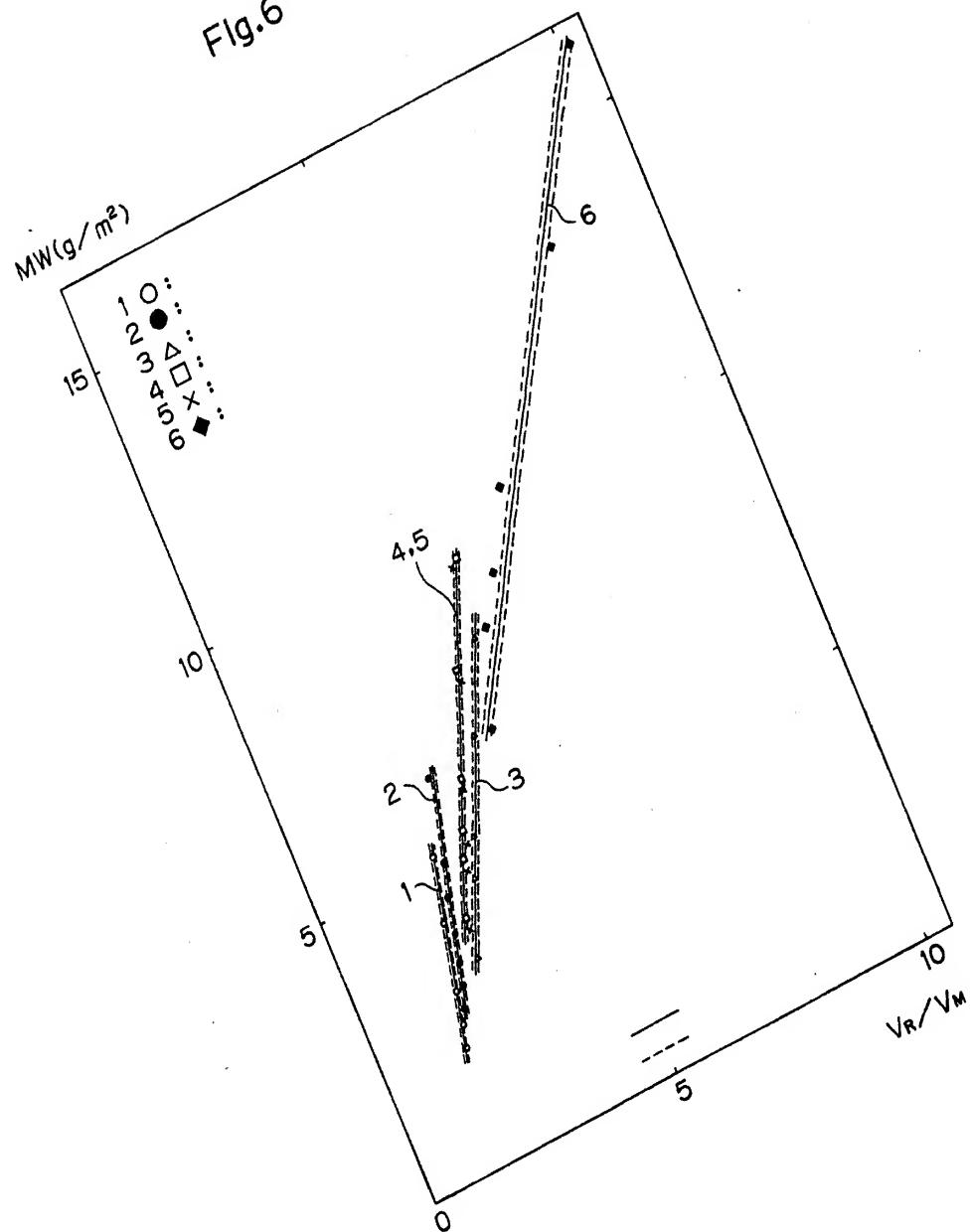


Fig.7

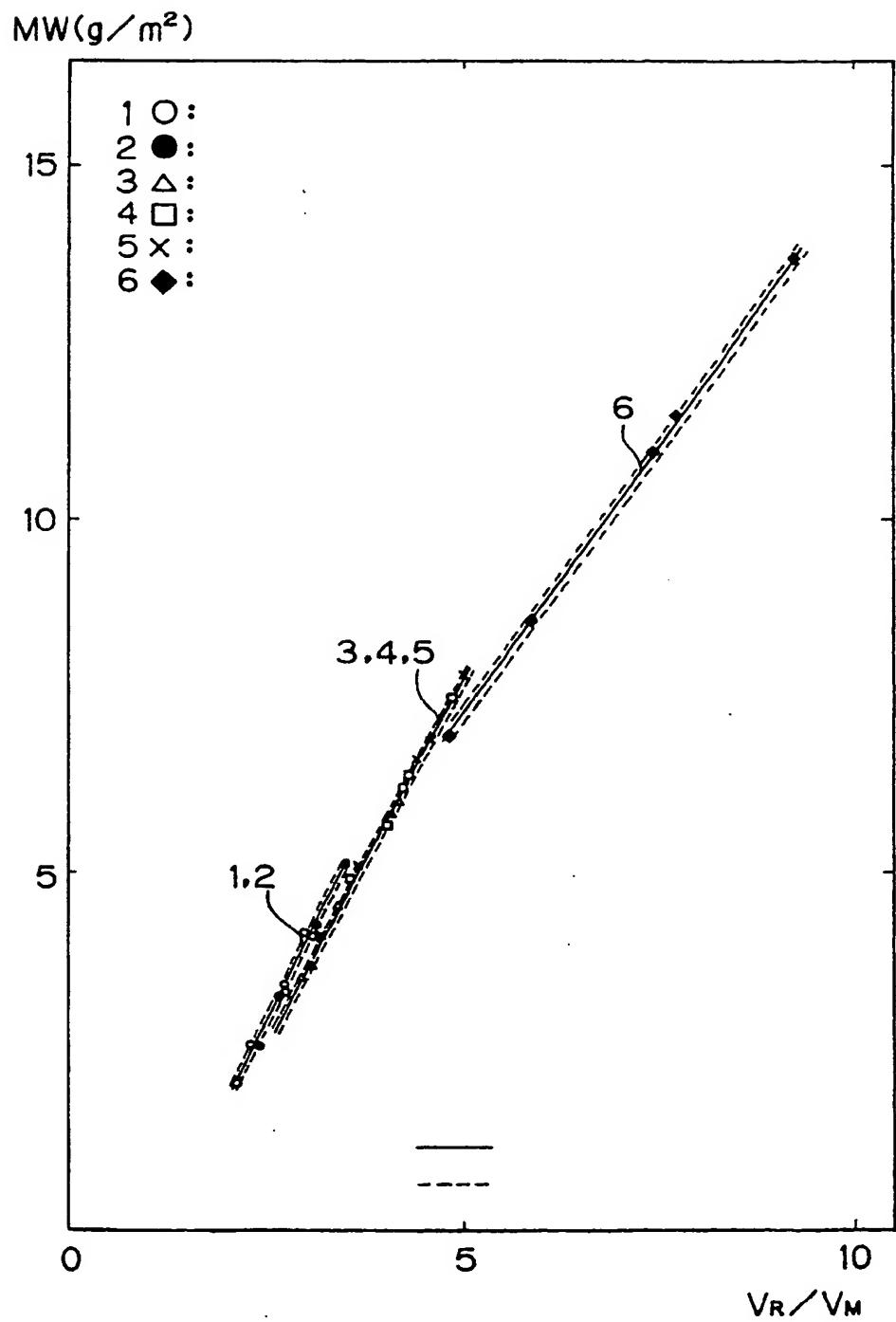


Fig.8

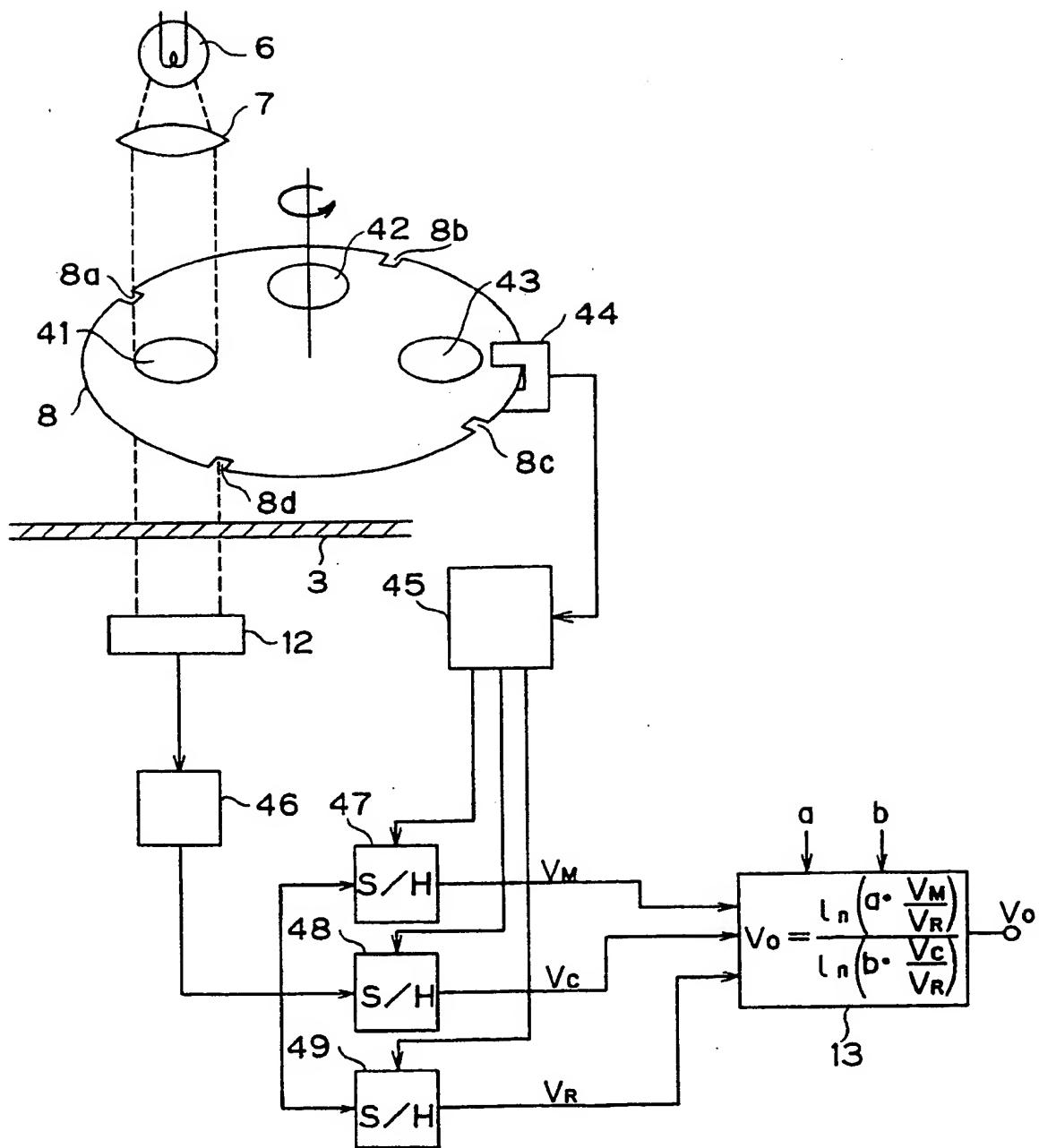


Fig.9

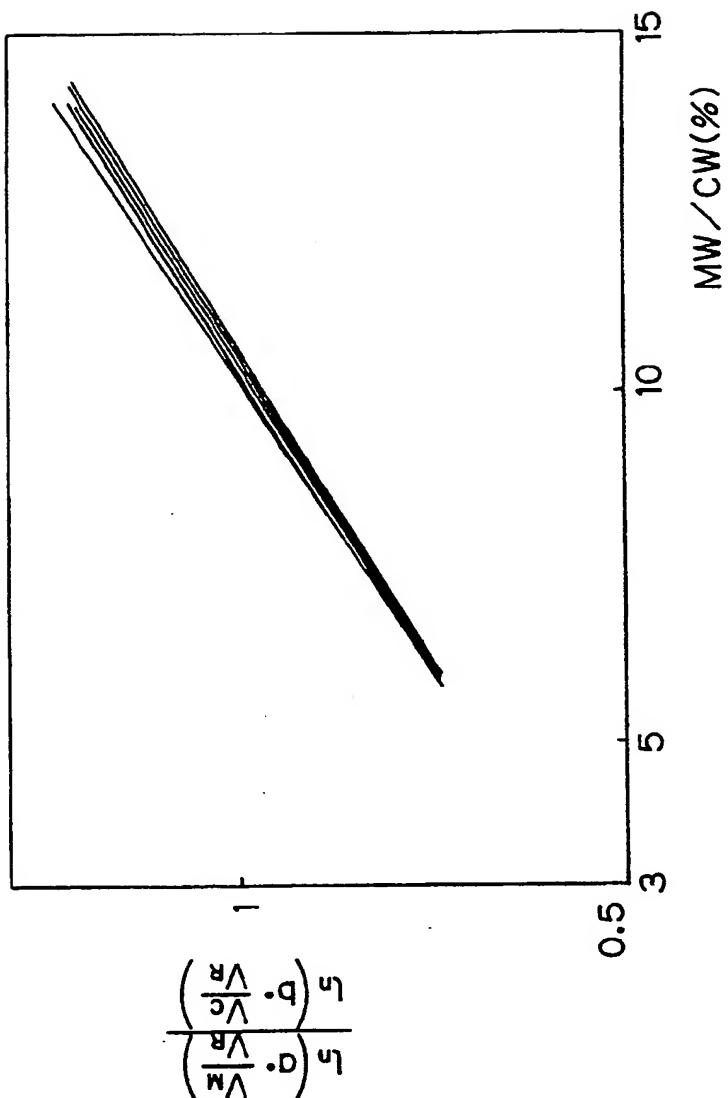


Fig.10

		+3.65%	0.37%	+1.35%
		-1.3%		-0.47%
1.00%			0.11%	+0.20%
0.62%		-1.12%		-0.35%

Fig.11

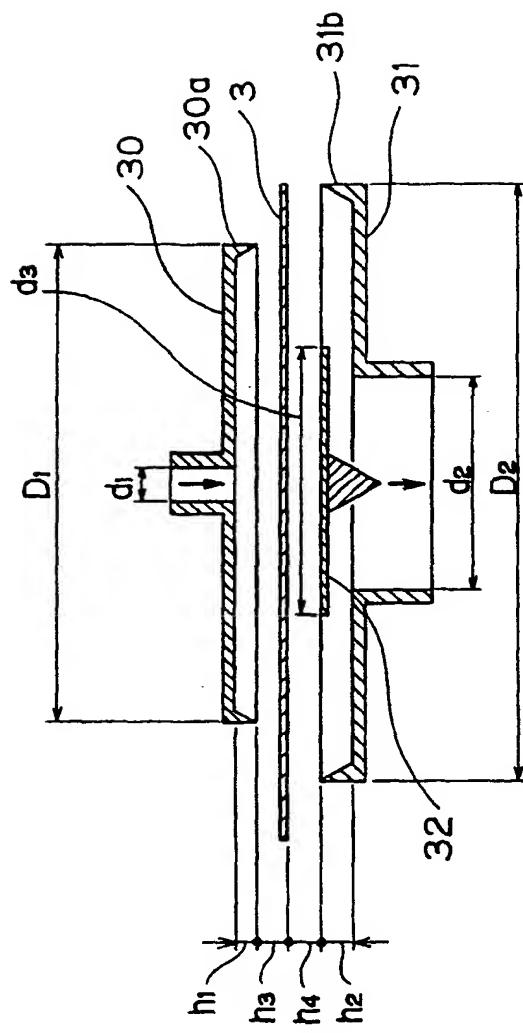


Fig.12

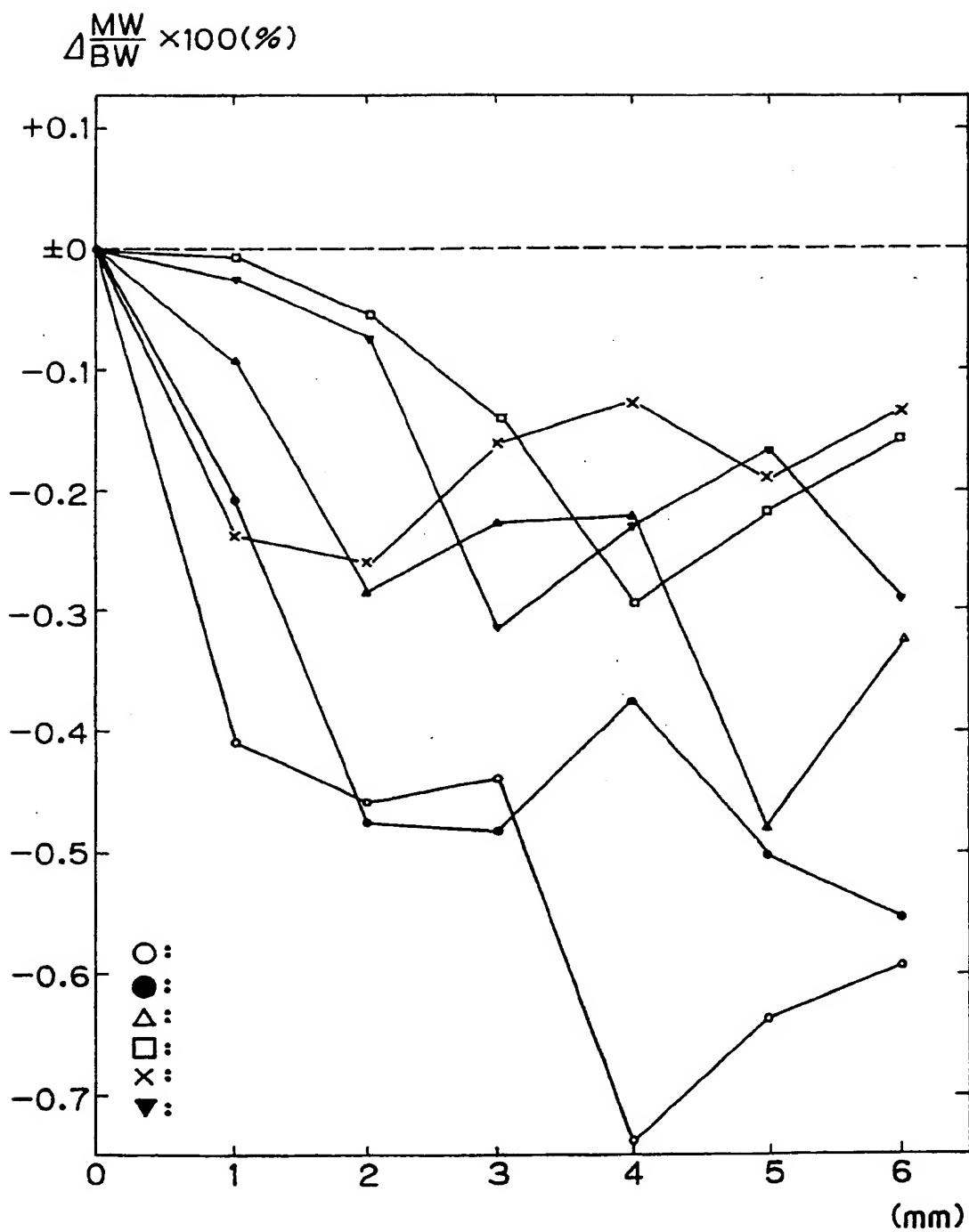


Fig.13

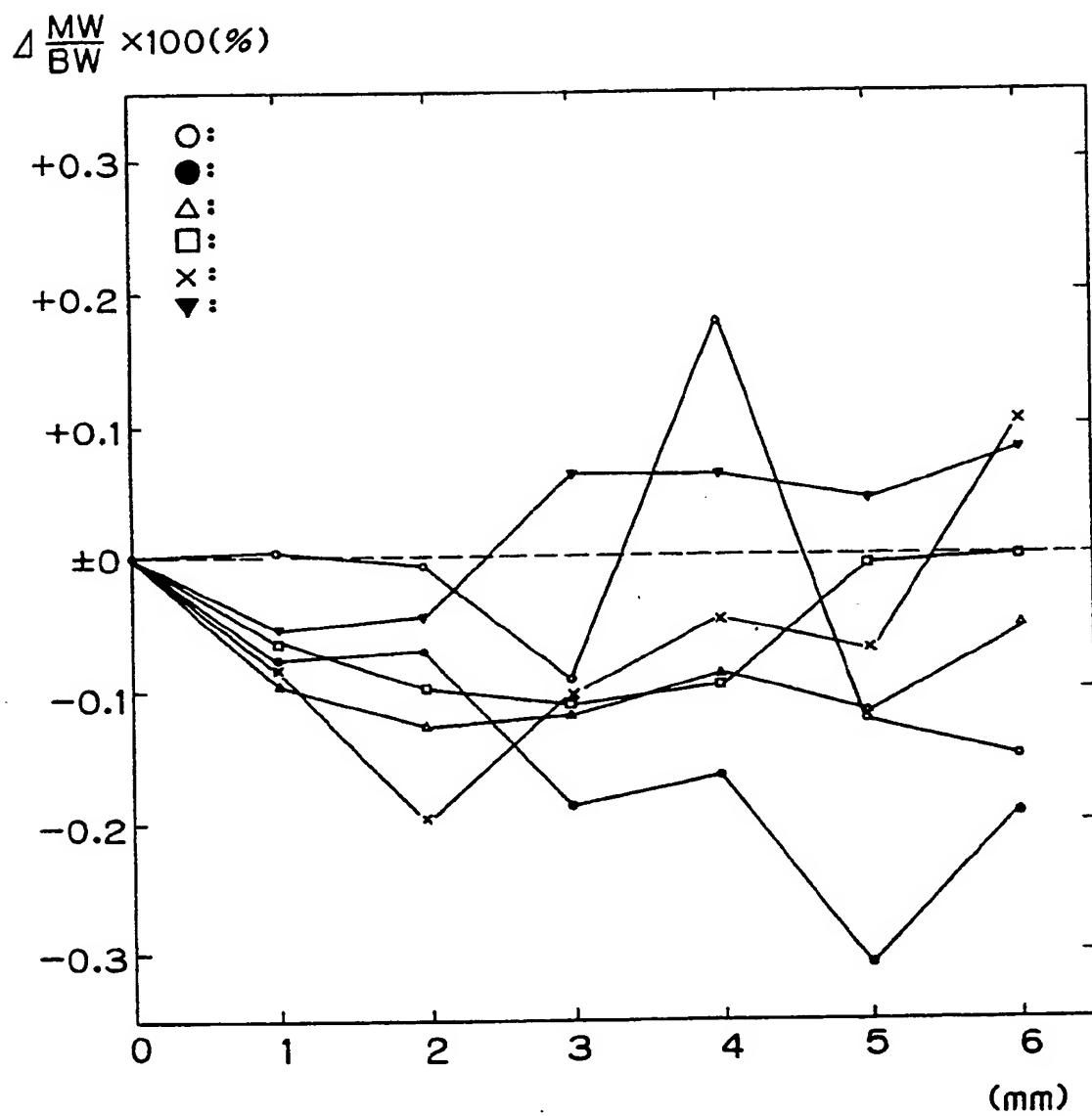
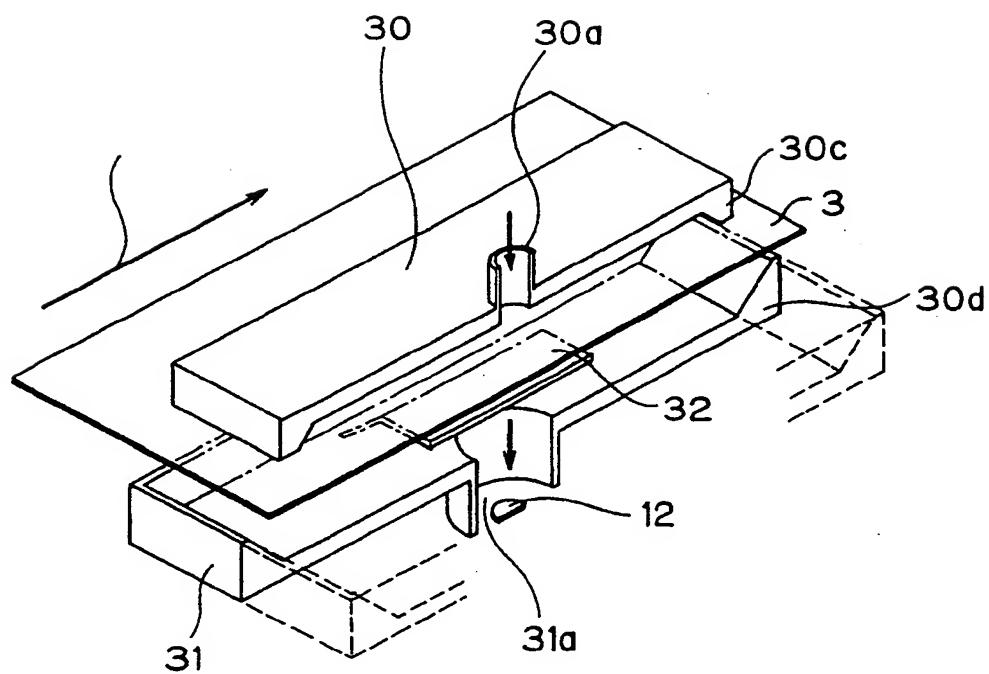


Fig.14







Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Offic europ   n des brevets



(11) Publication number:

0 453 797 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 91104799.1

(61) Int. Cl. 5: G01N 21/86, G01N 33/84

(22) Date of filing: 26.03.91

(30) Priority: 26.04.90 JP 111539/90
18.01.91 JP 4544/91

(43) Date of publication of application:
30.10.91 Bulletin 91/44

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE GB

(88) Date of deferred publication of the search report:
04.03.92 Bulletin 92/10

(71) Applicant: Yokogawa Electric Corporation
9-32, Nakacho 2-chome Musashino-shi
Tokyo 180(JP)

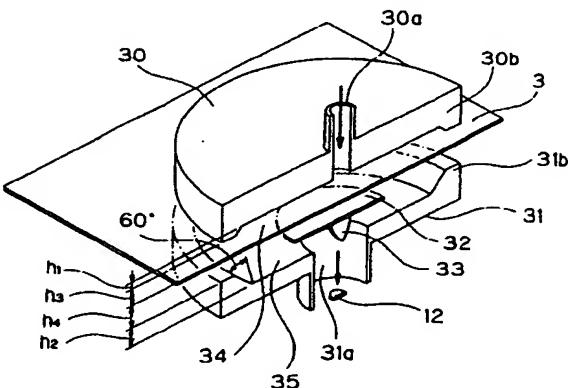
(72) Inventor: Chiba, Ryuji
3-26-10, Sakigaoka
Funabashi-shi, Chiba 274(JP)
Inventor: Hara, Hitoshi
2-3-32-305, Mukodaicho
Tanashi-shi, Tokyo 188(JP)
Inventor: Yamada, Tomoyuki
4-49-3, Nagasaki
Toshima-ku, Tokyo 171(JP)
Inventor: Isozaki, Kenji
2-13-12, Iguchi
Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181(JP)

(74) Representative: Henkel, Feller, H  nzel &
Partner
M  hlstrasse 37
W-8000 M  nchen 80(DE)

(54) Infrared ray moisture meter.

(57) The present disclosure relates to an infrared ray moisture meter which measures moisture of paper using absorption of infrared rays, and more particularly to an infrared ray moisture meter in which penetration and scattering by paper is done enough independent of whether the paper is thin or thick, the sensitivity of which is high, and in which attenuation of rays is small and error of measurement with respect to misalignment in the XY direction is small, and at the same time, which lowers the influence of the quality of the paper by applying to the paper infrared rays which are sensitive to moisture, infrared rays which are sensitive to cellulose, and infrared rays which are sensitive neither to moisture nor cellulose and by computing using detection output by the infrared rays.

Fig.5



EP 0 453 797 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application number
EP 91104799

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.)
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 13, no. 215 (P-874) (3563), 19 May 1989; JP - A - 1032153 (YOKOGAWA ELECTRIC CORP.) 02.02.1989	1	G01N21/86 G01N33/34
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 13, no. 209 (P-871) (3557), 17 May 1989; & JP - A - 1025038 (YOKOGAWA ELECTRIC CORP.) 27.01.1989	1	
A	US-A-4052615 (B.Y. CHO) * abstract; figure 1 *	1	
A	US-A-4027161 (P. WILLIAMS et al.) * figure 1; column 5, lines 13-51 *	1	
A	EP-A-0332018 (PROCESS AUTOMATION BUSINESS INC.) * column 3, lines 46-55; figure 1 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.)
			G01N D21F
The present search report has been drawn up for claim 1			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
BERLIN	31.07.1991	BRISON, O.P.	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document B : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			



European Patent
Office

CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims
- Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claims:
- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

X LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claim: 1
Measurement equipment of characteristics of paper with upper and lower reflector, shielding plate
2. Claims: 2-4
Infrared ray moisture meter for measuring paper moisture

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims
- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- None of the further search fees has been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims
namely claims: 1

